



HUNGRY BOTTOM: ON CLOACAL THINKING

Thursday, August 24th, 2023 — Sunday, September 10, 2023

The REEF, 1933 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90007, CalArts Studio, 12th Floor

Visit by appointment only.

[Soft Opening Reception](#)

Thursday, August 24, 2023, 7:00 PM

SHITx Talks by Shoji Yamasaki

Katie Couric Gets A Colonoscopy | TODAY

[Enema Cocktail Hour](#)

Sunday, September 10, 2023, 6:00 PM

[REEF Residency Open Studios](#)

Thursday, December 13, 2023, 6:00 PM

“I am a body of holes. Dripping, mucousy, bloody...” — Amelia Jones, *Holy Body*, 2006

AC Smith presents *Hungry Bottom: On Cloacal Thinking*, a psycho-somatic curatorial study on queer relationships with the gut, on view Thursday, August 24th, through Sunday, September 10th, as a part of the 2023 CalArts REEF Residency. A mise-en-scène that serves as both a bathroom and dining room exhibits works by artists C Bain, Patty Chang, Caleb Craig, Dallas Havoc, Elizabeth Herring, stephanie mei huang, Annika Klein, White Male Artist AKA Cassils, and Zenaido Zamora. *Hungry Bottom* is dedicated to the lesbians and bisexuals in Smith’s life with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

Where gastrointestinal maladies are a biological consequence of psychological experiences, the “gut,” in the case of *Hungry Bottom*, is defined by the digestive system and systems in which it shares a transactional relationship: the mouth, throat, stomach, large intestine, pelvic muscular structure (the perineum, urinary, genital, and lower intestinal tracts), and finally the colon and anus. This definition pulls from Shannon Sullivan’s “cloacal thinking” from *The Physiology of Sexist and Racist Oppression* (2015) which “treats the gut and pelvic floor as psychosomatically integrated,” (19).

Considering queerness and queer topics/theories on the gut, *Hungry Bottom* exhibits embodied experiences of the LGBTQ+ community and their relationships with gastrointestinal maintenance as well as highlights the queer properties of the gut as a non-gendered (+ non-human) hole running through every “body” — where the gut represents “the most significant place ‘inside’ the body with which the ‘outside’ world comes into contact,” (Sullivan, 65). *Hungry Bottom* highlights non-binary approaches to healthy and sick, sanitary and septic, biology and neurology, and boundaries between organs within/outside the body. Topics for example may include but are not limited to: excremental art and philosophy, absorption and rejection, gastrointestinal maladies and medicines (IBS, Crohn’s Disease, etc.), the “bottoming” experience, oral fixations, etc...

Approaching the gut, Smith expands on work from their 2021 CalArts MA thesis in Aesthetics & Politics that utilizes the colonoscopic procedure as a critical strategy to document and assess corporeal performance, function, and affect. In this approach, Smith makes the argument that all anorectal (and therefore gastrointestinal) conditions are queer based on two primary properties: 1.) Every “body” has one, and 2.) They are non-reproductive.

Hungry Bottom continues to employ the colono/endoscopic procedure to build out Smith’s post-graduate work curating a point-of-view (POV) of/from the bottom and opening up a bottom theory, Smith’s proposal aims to integrate queer corporealities into a new material gut feminism that reorients the gaze off of heteronormative functions of gut and onto queer relationships with our own body’s holes (ie. Sullivan does not address anal sex). *Hungry Bottom* fosters the “viewing” and “representation” of/from the bottom through the exhibition of sculpture, video, sound, painting, and digital works, as well as meal-sharing, and performance— promoting the production, consumption, digestion, and shitting of queer art, artists, and theory.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

C. Bain is a gender liminal writer, performer and artist. His work focuses on interstices of sex and violence—the queer body as a site subjected to the extraction of knowledge. He is obsessed with language, and obsessed with the possibility of escaping it. He also makes videos, work on paper, and sculptural work in concrete. He has performed at the Highline, the Getty Center, MOCA Los Angeles, the Broad Museum, Bard College, Hampshire College and at poetry venues across the US. His plays have been presented at the Kraine, the Tank, Dixon Place and the LGBT Center in NYC. He has been an apprentice at Ugly Duckling Presse, and participated in the first Center for Book Arts Creative Publishing Seminar. He is a Lambda literary fellow, and his first poetry book, *Debriment*, was a finalist for the Publishing Triangle Awards. He has a mental health focused social work degree from Hunter College and an art MFA from CalArts. Currently, he lives in California and teaches poetry on the internet. <http://tiresiasprojekt.com/>

Patty Chang is a Los Angeles based artist and educator who uses performance, video, installation and narrative forms when considering identity, gender, transnationalism, colonial legacies, the environment, large-scale infrastructural projects, and impacted subjectivities. Her museum exhibition and book *The Wandering Lake* investigates the landscapes impacted by large scale human-engineered water projects such as the Soviet mission to irrigate the waters from the Aral Sea, as well as the longest aqueduct in the world, the South to North Water Diversion Project in China. Her most recent collaborative project, *Learning Endings*, is a multi-part interdisciplinary research project that has surfaced amidst the overlapping contexts of climate crisis, threatened ocean ecosystems, and challenges to scientific expertise. It examines the work of scientists who perform necropsies of dead marine mammals as unacknowledged forms of attention and care, and explores how various kinds of art practice can support this care work. <https://www.pattychang.com/>

Caleb Craig (they/she) is a Los Angeles-based artist and performer who creates long-term audiovisual projects using immersive media, music production, and digital fabrication techniques. Their work is characterized by an interest in queer representation and politics. They work with virtual reality, 3D modeling, 3D printing, couture, animation, and music production to create experimental and innovative modes of performance. They received a B.F.A. in Expanded Forms of Art from the Lamar Dodd School of Art of the University of Georgia in 2018 and an MFA in Art & Technology from the California Institute of the Arts in 2021. Their work has been exhibited at Honor Fraser Gallery, Vellum LA, the JACCC George J. Doizaki Gallery, Palazzo Ferretti di Cortona, and Tin Flats, among others. They were a 2023 FIAR Artist-in-Residence and are currently a 2023 Reef Artist-in-Residence. www.calebcraig.com/
@smokinhotqueer

Dallas Havoc is a performer, craftsperson & fabricator based in Los Angeles. He is an anti-disciplinary artist practicing craft, whose object-making is an invitation towards the larger field of his performance work. That work aims to stretch an elastic, vibrating web between tactile material, sensual, corporal mythology and phenomenological experience. His work exclaims: craft is by its nature, experience-based art. Objects, costumes, puppets and sets become new cultural devices. Havoc works with a commitment to ethics of craft: storytelling, and honoring our root network. He dissects, restructures and queers narratives around labor, productivity, and identity with communal play, collaborative game, and ritual making. His craft is a devoted and impassioned apprenticeship to technique and ritual, which offers fertile ground for experimentation and radical play. Through radicalization of the body, the voice and the spirit in relationship to object, to material, the natural world, social theatre and performance, we find new ways of being. We can be radical from dawn to dusk. <https://dallashavoc.com/>
@_sallad_

Elizabeth Herring (b. 1991, Los Angeles) is an artist working in photography, sculpture, and installation living and working in Ojai, California. Her practice often investigates the intersection between social networks and community building, leading her to develop a practice also rooted in curation and arts organizing. Herring's 2020 solo show Ojai City Gift, began her para-fictional exploration of places of business as agents for cultural shifts, which led her to build an installation project titled Cappuccino Cafe: Outpost for her CalArts MFA thesis project. Cappuccino Cafe: Outpost was a temporary room full of artworks created to further unpack the relationships between image production, aesthetic subcultures, and human connection in the current era of peak social media usage. In 2022, Herring co-founded Spore Space, an artist-run project space in downtown Ojai. Herring will be attending the Tallgrass Artist Residency in Matfield Green, KS in September 2023.

<https://eclairherring.com/>

@elizabethpostingstuff

stephanie mei huang is a Los Angeles based interdisciplinary artist. They use a diverse range of media and strategies including film/video, installation, social interventions, sculpture, writing, and painting. They are interested in the capacity to disarrange systems of prediction based upon otherness and threat. They see slippery, chameleonic identity as a form of infiltration: a soft power reversal within hard architectures of power. They completed their MFA in Art at the California Institute of the Arts (2020), and they received their BA from Scripps College (2016). They recently exhibited at Jeffrey Deitch Gallery, Artists Space (New York), Eli Klein Gallery (New York), the Hauser and Wirth Book Lab, Contemporary Calgary (Calgary), the MAK Center for Art and Architecture, 4th Ward Project Space (Chicago), Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery, the New Wight Biennial at the University of California Los Angeles, Cerritos Gallery, and the Arizona State University Art Museum (Tempe). They have been supported by the Foundation for Contemporary Arts, J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, The Getty Foundation, the California Community Foundation, among others. They are a contributor to the Contemporary Art Review Los Angeles and Artsy. They have taught at non-profits such as the Marfa Studio of Arts and Venice Arts. They were a participant at the Whitney Museum's Independent Study Program (2022).

<https://stephaniemei.com/>

@stephaniemeihuang

Annika Klein (b.1992) was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, and currently based in Los Angeles. Klein graduated from Brown University with a degree in Visual Arts (hons.) in 2015 and an MFA from California Institute of the Arts in 2022. She has participated in exhibitions across the country, including a solo exhibition in Louisville and group exhibitions at Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn; the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA); Other Places Art Fair, Long Beach; and Helen J Gallery, Los Angeles. Klein is also the recipient of grants from the DCA, the Center for Cultural Innovation, Los Angeles, and both universities she attended. Spanning different formal and conceptual approaches, Klein's practice lingers in the challenges of embodied experience, in particular the difficulties of living with chronic illness, of which she has an intimate knowledge.

<https://www.annikaklein.com/>

@annikaklein_

White Male Artist AKA Cassils. On July 1, 2021, we announced the "Greatest and Most Ambitious NFT Performance of All Time" called \$HT Coin. The project was launched under the pseudonym "White Male Artist" in an effort to bring gender and racial inequality into focus within the greater arts and crypto community. Today we are pleased to unveil the artist's true identity and share the critique at the heart of the project. \$HT Coin is the brainchild of Cassils, a Guggenheim Award-winning, transgender, Canadian-American performance artist. Cassils' decision to initially announce the project with the nom de plume "White Male Artist" fits into a long history of pseudonyms employed by artists critiquing a centuries old, outdated art market in which value is determined by the identity of the creator rather than the merit of the work. \$HT Coin is released into an art market in which only 2% of the top grossing contemporary artists are not cisgender men and seeks to shed light on this disparity. White Male Artist is a persona Cassils has performed, moonlighting as a Trojan horse and circulating seamlessly with the crypto bros.

Investors have been speculating: Is WMA Banksy? Beeple? Beeple's wife? What happens to the sales of these NFTs once it is known that Cassils was assigned female at birth and that they have to contend with the sexism, misogyny, and transphobia that comes from rupturing cisgender norms as a gender non conforming person? As an exercise in behavioral finance, this work prompts: Will the value of Cassils' work go up or down? You decide.

<https://whitemaleartist.com/>

<https://www.cassils.net/>

@cassilsartist

Zenaido Zamora is a Los Angeles-based interdisciplinary artist specializing in photography, makeup and performance. Born in Fresno, CA to immigrant parents from Mexico, their work explores themes of memory, identity, and community with a diaristic approach. They received their BA in Media, Communications & Journalism from California State University, Fresno, and MFA in Photography & Media from California Institute of the Arts.

<https://www.zenaidozamora.com/>

@zen.ai.do

ABOUT THE CURATOR

AC Smith is a Los Angeles based independent curator and writer with an artistic and academic practice in queer performance art and feminist materialism. They received their BA in Art History from Skidmore College (2017) and MA in Aesthetics & Politics from the CalArts School of Critical Studies (2021). They served as the Exhibitions and Programs Manager at the MAK Center for Art and Architecture (2021-2023). They're the recipient of curatorial internships and fellowships at the Whitney Museum of American Art (2017), Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum (2018), Hauser & Wirth, New York (2019), and Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles (2021). They're a current recipient of the 2023 CalArts REEF Residency.

<https://alliesmith.gay/>

@alliesm.th

ABOUT THE CALARTS REEF RESIDENCY

The CalArts REEF Residency supports recent graduates from the MFA & MA programs in the schools of Critical Studies, Film/Video and the School of Art for one year in a creative and collaborative working environment at Reef building, Maker City, in Downtown Los Angeles.

<https://criticalstudies.calarts.edu/reef>.

Contact, A.C. Smith, allisoncsmith25@gmail.com

